

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN THOMAS  
THORNTON, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, last July I had an opportunity to participate in a day of celebration and remembrance of the great contribution to agriculture and the economy in general made by the late John Thomas Thornton, Jr., of the community of Parrott, Georgia. If you are not familiar with the name, you are not alone. Even in the area of southwest Georgia where he lived and farmed most of his life, many people are not fully aware of his contribution, which impacts our lives even today.

J.T. Thornton invented the peanut shaker, a harvesting device that came into common use in the 1940's. His invention revolutionized the peanut industry. By making the harvesting process faster and more efficient, the peanut shaker contributed greatly to the economic growth of our area of Georgia and, in fact, to the country at large.

Mr. Thornton spent some 40 years developing and perfecting his invention. It was a magnificent achievement. The history of this achievement was beautifully presented in an essay written by a student from Parrott, Bonnie West, who won high honors when she entered the paper in the National History Day competition. Her accomplishment helped revive community interest in Mr. Thornton's invention, which he called the "Victory Peanut Harvester."

The people of Parrott, including members of the Thornton family, are establishing a museum on the invention of the peanut shaker, and sponsored the day of celebration that included a parade and a number of other events. It was an exciting and enjoyable day, and it helped bring wider recognition of what this native southwest Georgian achieved.

Although farmers did not have any more spare time back then than they do today, J.T. Thornton somehow found the time to apply his practical knowledge of farming, and his extraordinary grasp of engineering and mechanics, to overcome all of the difficulties he must have encountered until he produced something that raised the quality of life for countless Americans. This is a story we are proud of in southwest Georgia, and that can inspire other Americans, especially our young people. Mr. Speaker, it is, therefore, a story I want to share with our colleagues in Congress.

IN MEMORY OF DENIS NICKEL

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Denis Gene Nickel, a man who led a life that we can all admire and emulate. Denis devoted his life to improving the world we live in, and he realized incredible success in his efforts to save our nation's natural resources for future generations. He has left us with a legacy that demonstrates the power of partnerships and stewardship of our natural resources.

Denis gave thirty-four years of dedicated service to the Natural Resource Conservation Service. As an Area Conservationist in Santa Rosa, Denis worked extensively in the North Coast counties that I represent. His leadership in forming a coalition of local, private, state and federal agencies to manage the Mendocino County Tomki Watershed was invaluable in garnering support for such an incredibly important project in the 1st District of California.

In addition, Denis provided tremendous assistance and guidance to those involved in the viticulture industry in Napa and Sonoma counties. He was a pioneer in promoting local stewardship in the development of hillside erosion control methods—these methods are the bedrock of the methods currently used by viticulturists around the nation. The personal integrity that Denis showed in his daily work facilitated building a durable consensus of stakeholders in our nation's natural resources.

Denis was the consummate family man who enjoyed spending his time with a large extended family. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Sandi, for thirty-five years, and he was immensely proud of his three children, Wendy, Warren, and Amy.

His smile and good-natured sense of humor that his family and friends knew so well helped him to establish trusted relationships while working towards the admirable goal of sustaining America's vital resources. Denis worked not only for the benefit of the people of my district, but he has also been recognized across the country for his tremendous contributions, including his term as State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to honor the many invaluable contributions Denis Nickel made to my district and the entire nation. We would be fortunate to have more people of Denis's integrity working towards sustaining our natural resources for future generations.

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE TRADE  
RELATIONS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE  
SECTOR BETWEEN KOREA AND  
THE U.S.

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Auto Caucus with Congressman FRED UPTON, I am introducing on our behalf a concurrent resolution to express this Congress' support for improved trade relations in the automotive sector between Korea and the United States. A companion concurrent resolution is being introduced by the Senate Auto Caucus co-chairs, Senator CARL LEVIN and Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH.

For too long, Korea has kept its market closed to United States automobiles and auto parts. This must change.

Up until 1990, Korea maintained a completely closed market, and it was not until 1999, in the midst of economic crisis, that it opened its market to all manufacturers. However, it has made every effort to continue to restrict foreign motor vehicles. This is best exemplified by the facts. In the year 2000, a total

of 1,057,620 motor vehicles were sold in the Republic of Korea, but only 4414 were imported and only 1268 were made in the United States. As a result, American motor vehicles represented a pathetic 0.12 percent of all motor vehicle sales in Korea.

Anticompetitive activities in Korea must stop. Threats of income tax audits on Koreans who purchase foreign automobiles must cease. Underhanded trade barriers must be lowered. Passage of this concurrent resolution will send a clear message to Korea that things must change.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this effort to ensure fair trade and an open market for American motor vehicles in Korea. I look forward to working with colleagues to ensure its passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, for Roll Call Vote No. 145, on final passage of H.R. 1, I was present in the Chamber and engaged in the debate on this bill as indicated by my previous vote on the Motion to Recommit (Roll Call Vote No. 144) and subsequent vote on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1836. Although I intended to vote "aye" on final passage of this bill, my vote was not registered. I ask unanimous consent that this statement appear immediately after Roll Call Vote No. 145 in the permanent CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JEFFERSON  
STEPHENS, JR.

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jefferson Stephens, Jr., who is retiring after more than twenty years as Headmaster of the Chandler School in Pasadena, California. On June 16th, the school will celebrate Mr. Stephens' career and the impact he has had on the lives of so many.

The Chandler School was founded with a vision to provide young students with innovative, inspired academic programs taught by caring, dedicated faculty and staff. Under Mr. Stephens' guidance, the Chandler School treats each child as an individual and strives to create an environment in which children develop self-esteem and self-discipline, as well as respect for their fellow students. As headmaster, Mr. Stephens, has expected high standards of behavior, courtesy, and academic performance from each child who has come to his school, and has fostered a scholastic atmosphere that encourages curiosity and creativity.

In addition to serving the academic community, Mr. Stephens has served as an associate pastor for the St. George's Episcopal Church. He has also participated in a wide range of civic duties, by assisting as a member of the Tournament of Roses Association and serving on the board of directors for a community housing project.